

**City of Milpitas**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**Telecommunications Commission**  
**January 23, 2006**

**I. Call to Order & Roll Call:**

Telecommunications Commission Chair Albert Alcorn called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Albert Alcorn, N. Gupta, S. Bansal, P. Peterson, R. Shaw, A. Ettinger, D. Gupta, V. Mathur, W. Lam

I.S. Staff: B. Marion, E. Pasion

Members Absent: S Bilgrami, I Munir

City Council: A. Gomez

**II. Pledge of Allegiance:**

The members of the Commission recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Announcements:**

Chair Alcorn requested a letter of thanks be drafted in recognition of Gunawan Ali-Santosa's his years of service on the telecom commission. Staff introduced Roger Shaw to the Telecom Commission as Alternate #2. Satish Bansal moves Commissioner standing and Syed Bilgrami move up to Alternate #1 status.

**IV. Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion to approve the agenda.

M/S      N. Gupta / V. Mathur                      Ayes:    9

**V. Approval of the Minutes  
November 15, 2004**

Commissioners Bansal noted that the November minutes should be corrected to add that he was present at that meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes as amended.

M/S      N. Gupta / P. Peterson                      Ayes:    9

**VI. Citizen's Forum**

Mr. Alvin H. White, 172 Selwyn Drive, Milpitas, expressed his interests for greater Wi-Fi access for the public. He supports wireless Internet public access in the library and for the general public. Chair Alcorn requested that staff provide a report on going efforts of wireless Internet access in the Milpitas area.

**VII. Continued-New Business:**

## 1. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair 2006.

Chair Alcorn welcomed the Commissioners to offer nominations for a new Chair and Vice Chair for 2006.

Commissioner N. Gupta nominated Albert Alcorn to serve as Chair. Commissioner Peterson seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made for the post of Chair to the Telecommunications Commission.

The Commission voted close that nomination and then voted unanimously to elect Albert Alcorn as Chair of the Telecommunications Commission for 2006.

Newly re-elected Chair Alcorn opened that floor for nominations to the post of Vice Chair to the Telecommunications Commission.

Commissioner Dinesh Gupta nominated Commissioner Niranjana Gupta to serve as Vice Chair to the Commission. Commissioner Mathur seconded the nomination. The Commission voted close that nomination and then voted unanimously to elect Niranjana Gupta as Vice Chair of the Telecommunications Commission for 2006.

## 2. T-Mobile Cell Antenna Installation 447 Great Mall Drive

T-Mobile communications presented its request to co-locate six cellular panel antennas and support equipment in the Great Mall tower at 447 Great Mall Drive. The installation would be a stealth design within the Great Mall tower. Currently, Nextel communications operates several antennas at the same location. T-Mobile is requesting locate its antennas within the Great Mall tower in order with expand its coverage and increase its capacity in the greater Milpitas area.

Commissioner Lam asked of the alternative locations as part of the application. T-Mobile representatives, Toriana Henderson, noted the Great Mall location was ideal over the listed locations for collocation needs. Commissioner D. Gupta asked of the coverage of the network versus the height of the antennas location. T-Mobile representative, Scott Dunham, noted the technology being used was to support the coverage area and capacity of the network and its users at any given time. Chair Alcorn asked that question of how much more can the cellular location support. Mr. Dunham estimated about an extra 1500 users.

Commissioner Mathur asked of the impacts of other cellular providers. Mr. Dunham noted that T-Mobile technology and location would not have any interference on the existing providers with the Great Mall tower location. Commissioner D. Gupta asked of the impacts of the radiated power from the requested location. Mr.

Dunham noted that radiated output of the and the distance covered would have a very minimal effect to the general public.

Chair Alcorn reiterated that need to have a proper placard information and notification be posted at the fire control point. T-Mobile noted it would be made part of the location. Commissioner Lam asked of the coverage as detailed in the T-Mobile and how it impacts the service. Mr. Dunham explained that coverage area in Milpitas is expanding as detailed in the submitted documents. He added that technology and roaming agreements with Cingular and AT&T antennas locations were used under previous use agreements. GSM cellular technology is being used for the T-Mobile network. Mr. Dunham noted that there would be an expansion of the cellular network to handle coverage of the network and support of its customers.

Chair Alcorn added that it hopes for greater coverage of area. Mr. Dunham noted that the City of Milpitas has available locations for T-Mobile to consider locating its cellular antennas.

Chair Alcorn asked Commissioner Ettinger to outline his list of experience. Commission Ettinger noted that his area of expertise is in the telecommunications, security design, radio frequency design and engineering and service and repair.

Motion to approve application and forward recommendations to the Planning Commission.

M/S V. Mathur / D. Gupta Ayes: 9

### 3. Status Report PEG Subcommittee Reports

Bill Marion, Director of Information Services, presented a report of the cable television franchise and the public access studio.

Staff and the subcommittee met with the city council subcommittee on the status of the public access studio location. A presentation was given to the city council at its January 17 meeting. In the meantime, Comcast has provided the city with the first installment of funds to support the cable access channel and the city attorney's office has submitted its review of the use policy between the city and the Milpitas unified school district.

Staff reported that a survey was conducted during the cable franchise review. It found that 51% of Milpitas residents agreed that a public access television studio was important to have in Milpitas. Another 76% of the survey respondents were aware of cable channel 15. Finally, 61% were watching cable 15 on an occasional basis. Staff noted that the future cable channels would

provide access to the public and educational access for cable television programming.

Staff reported on the original plan of locating the public access studio at the Milpitas unified school district offices. However, a traffic improvement plan for the school district and sports center facilities has been delayed to 2010 and construction projects at the Milpitas Unified School District campus have also been delayed. The council subcommittee directed staff to find an alternative location within the city. Staff determined that vacant storage room in the first floor city hall location next to the committee conference room was available and could be of possible use for a public access studio. The location provides an advantage to televise live meetings from the adjacent conference room along with the creation of shows from the main studio for public access programming.

Staff has moved forward in creating a capital improvement project account for the Comcast PEG funds in order to begin the funding for the project. Staff added that the potential video equipment would be flexible to move programming to either public, educational or government cable channels. However, a needs assessment is being developed to determine the cable television production requirements for the location.

Chair Alcorn asked of the possibility web casting the public access programming. Staff noted that it feature still needs to be determined and cost are calculated to support such a feature.

Staff reported that preplanning and design is underway in order determine the requirements of the room. Planning is also underway for building requirements for the future studio as well. The commission will be updated as to the progress of the public access studio project. Completion is tentatively projected for late summer 2006. Mr. Marion reiterated the following items of progress: initial design of the studio, draft agreement with MUSD use policy and public access use policy procedures. He noted that all would be work in progress in parallel with the studio planning.

Commissioner D. Gupta noted that prior preplanning work from the subcommittee helped a great deal and the City Council approved that project unanimously. Commissioner D. Gupta also wanted to express gratitude and thanks to Eddie Garcia, Comcast Government Affairs, for the assistance with the entire cable franchise and PEG process.

Chair asked that a schedule be developed in order to follow the project and be able to promote the future needs of the new studio. Commissioner D. Gupta added subcommittee needs to meet and review the policy for the day-to-day use studio and review the needs for the

studio as well receive city staff input on the policy and equipment requirements updates.

Motion to note receipt and file.

M/S N. Gupta / P. Peterson

Ayes: 9

#### 4. Comcast Report Govt Affairs

Bill Marion, Director of Information Services, introduced Eddie Garcia, Comcast Government Affairs.

Mr. Garcia noted that he was appreciative of the work that was done to complete that new cable television franchise with the City and high standard established to meet the requirements for the new agreement. He thanked the city and the commission for all the hard work that was done to complete the new cable franchise.

Chair Alcorn asked Mr. Garcia to address the matter of Comcast's On-Demand cable service for Milpitas residents, which is currently not available. Mr. Garcia provided a brief history and current cycle of the upgrades to all bay area Comcast service areas.

Milpitas was the recipients of most of its major technology upgrades to its cable system in the mid-1990s. Since then, the entire bay area has also been undergoing a major infrastructure and technology upgrades. Mr. Garcia noted that in time the Milpitas area will also be receiving new equipment to improve on the current delivery technology and offering more services to its customers; however, he could not commit to time and date of completion for such expansion and upgrades. As for the marketing of the Comcast's services he would need to determine what can be done to correct the services being offered to Milpitas subscribers.

Commissioner Shaw added he subscribes to the Comcast digital service and gets the marketing information. He suggested that the marketing data be changed so that it doesn't pertain to Milpitas subscribers. Chair Alcorn added that the marketing information be segmented out in areas that currently are not available for service such as the case in Milpitas for On-Demand digital services. Mr. Garcia concurred and would investigate the process of segmenting the marketing information until it becomes officially available in Milpitas.

Commissioner D. Gupta noted that current Comcast DVR players are inflexible programming and recording. He noted that different DVR recorders that can or cannot work with the programming and recordings. Mr. Garcia asked for further assistance on this matter from the Commission. Chair Alcorn added that he was not experiencing any inflexibility with the DVR product. In

fact he added that the equipment had a dual channel tuner for great use and programming.

Commissioner Lam asked of the current status of the Internet product and the downtime associated with the service. Mr. Garcia noted that the Internet product that Comcast service is the largest provider of Internet service in the nationwide.

Chair Alcorn read an email from Lou-Anne McKeefery and her current use of the Comcast Internet product. She added that the Comcast product briefly shuts down and impacts file transferring programs and whether it was matter of deterring such programs from working properly. Mr. Garcia requested that the message be forward to him to better address the matter. He also added that the Comcast residential product differs greatly from the Comcast business product that can provide a dedicated Internet service address for greater flexibility.

Commissioner Lam noted of software from Comcast was slowing down the speed of the computer. He noted that he upgraded his software it elevated the slow speed to his computer. Additional, the Comcast photo program took up a great deal of speed.

Mr. Alvin White asked of the availability of fiber optic cable directly to the home. Mr. Garcia noted that Comcast Internet product is delivered via a hybrid fiber coaxial network (HFC), which is fiber optic cable delivered to a neighborhood cable node box, which in turn delivers to a coaxial cable network to the subscriber's home. Mr. White hopes in the future Internet technology will allow for the ability of communicating across vast borders and languages.

Mr. Marion reported that various telecommunications companies are attempting to provide fiber to the home. However, currently, the cost associated to such a project is far too expensive to implement and deploy. Commissioner D. Gupta added that in the future it may be a combination of the two technologies, fiber and wireless, that may future develop progress of the new technology.

Motion to note receipt and file.

M/S N. Gupta / D. Gupta

Ayes: 9

## 5. November-December '05 I.S. Month Report.

Bill Marion, Director of Information Services, reported on the highlights of the Information Services Department for November and December 2005.

Chair Alcorn asked of the current status of the city manager. Staff reported that Mr. Lawson retired as Milpitas Police Chief in December and is under contract as the interim city manager.

Mr. Marion reported that two wireless companies were potentially seeking to establish a wireless Internet network in the Milpitas area. Details are still preliminary and no further information was available.

Information Services staff recently installed two more security cameras on the Community Center building at City Hall. The two video security cameras would aid in the coverage and ongoing security for the City Hall campus area.

A request for proposal (RFP) of a new permitting software system was held. A panel of city staff interviewed five potential vendors offering its services to the city in developing a new permitting software program.

The city's finance subcommittee recommended that the purchase of the permitting software be funded through permitting fees. The new permitting program would help with the coordination with building, fire inspection and planning departments.

Information Services staff recently deployed, for the Milpitas police department, a portable wireless digital video camera and digital video recorder system to monitor thefts at several shopping centers in the city. Sony Corporation was interested in use of its camera technology was considering writing an article on the use of the camera.

Chair Alcorn added that the city council was concerned with the privacy and use of such technology and wanted assurance that individual privacy was not compromised with the use of such camera technology. Staff noted that the city attorney cited cases using camera technology for investigation are protected for investigation use. Commission Lam asked of the magnification of the camera. Staff reported that the standard video coverage is 25-power magnification. The camera can be digitally magnified at 300-power with a digital zoom feature however with degraded image quality.

Information Services was also planning to increase the city's Internet bandwidth speed from a current 3 megabyte per second to an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) speed of 10 megabyte per second.

On going deployment of mobile nodes for the Tropos network continues. The mobile nodes were installed in the Milpitas fire department battalion chief vehicles. The mobile nodes provide much greater range and coverage

in the Milpitas area. Deployment should take about two months.

The police department is considering using on an onboard video camera system for its in-service vehicles. The onboard digital video would be streamed via live network link.

The fire department will be testing hardware and software for paramedic paper work filing. The test would allow for quick filing of medical response reports while in the field through the deployment of electronic tablet technology.

Chair Alcorn ask of the current user response from fire and police personnel. Staff noted that the new CAD program and its associated technologies continue to garner good use and support. Personnel in both departments either use all the full features of the CAD system while others prefer to use only the basic features. The fire department has personnel have activity utilized the CAD system when responding to an incident by preplanning the deployment of fire resources even before arriving on the scene. As for the police department, response times been reduced as much as twenty seconds from 3:30 to 3:10. Out of city response have also been tallied so that it doesn't impact the overall response time within the Milpitas area.

Motion to note receipt and file.

M/S      N. Gupta / D. Gupta                      Ayes:    9

## 6. Round Table Discussion

Chair Alcorn requested that the Commissioners provide a brief synopsis highlighting their own technical experience and interests.

He is seeking to utilize their professional knowledge that can better aid the overall expertise of the Commission when reviewing future projects and programs. He requested that staff forward email a message regarding this information for future discussion at the next Commission meeting.

## VIII. Adjournment of Meeting

The Commission adjourned the meeting to Monday, February 27, 2006.

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